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United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains an account of the activities undertaken by the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific during the period from August 2005 to July 2006. The wide support received from Member States and academic institutes within and outside the region has reaffirmed the role played by the Centre in fostering dialogue and cooperation in the field of disarmament and security in the region.

During the reporting period, the Centre continued to promote disarmament and security dialogue through the organization of meetings and conferences in the Asia and Pacific region. Such meetings and conferences were organized in Kyoto and Nagasaki, Japan; Busan, Republic of Korea; Bangkok; and Beijing. The Centre continued to assist the five Central Asian States in the finalization of a treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. The Centre also continued to provide assistance to Mongolia in taking the necessary measures to consolidate and strengthen its international security and nuclear-weapon-free status.

The Department for Disarmament Affairs has continued consultations with the Government of Nepal on the relocation of the Centre with a view to finalizing the host country agreement and the related memorandum of understanding to ensure the physical operation of the Centre from Kathmandu and to enable it to function effectively.

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I. Introduction

1. On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 60/85 entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific". In paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the Regional Centre with the necessary support, within existing resources, in carrying out its programme of activities; urged him to ensure the physical operation of the Regional Centre from Kathmandu within six months of the date of signature of the host country agreement and to enable the Centre to function effectively; and requested him to report to the Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report covers the activities of the Centre during the period from August 2005 to July 2006. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre covering the biennium 2004-2005 is contained in annex I. A list of planned activities of the Centre for which financial support from interested donors is being sought appears in annex II. In addition to the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre, activities of the Centre may be funded from voluntary contributions to other disarmament trust funds.

II. Activities of the Centre

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific has continued to enjoy the strong support of Member States and academic institutes within and outside the region for its role in encouraging regional and subregional dialogue for the enhancement of openness, transparency and confidence-building and the promotion of disarmament and security. The regional meetings on various disarmament and security-related issues organized by the Centre have been highly commended by the General Assembly and the Asia and Pacific community.

4. During the reporting period, the Centre organized, within the limited financial resources available through voluntary contributions of Member States and other interested organizations, a number of conferences and meetings, as described below.

5. From 17 to 19 August 2005, the Centre organized, in cooperation with the Government of Japan, Kyoto Prefecture and Kyoto City, a regional disarmament conference entitled "The United Nations after six decades and renewed efforts for the promotion of disarmament" in Kyoto, Japan. The conference was attended by approximately 50 participants from Governments, academic and research institutes, the media, and international, regional and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Kyoto conference considered, inter alia, the report of the United Nations Secretary-General entitled "In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All"; the outcome of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); the issue of compliance; the nuclear fuel cycle; institutional improvements for the NPT and its review process and withdrawal from the Treaty; the Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaty; and regional nuclear issues (e.g. the nuclear programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran). It also addressed the issue of small arms and light weapons, including the outcome of the second Biennial

Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The conference also considered the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, as well as the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation education.

6. The conference was highly commended by the participants as a useful contribution to endeavours to promote disarmament and non-proliferation dialogue within and outside the Asia and Pacific region. In particular, it provided participants an opportunity to further examine various initiatives put forward at the 2005 NPT Review Conference.

7. On 24 and 25 August 2005, the Centre provided Nagasaki Prefecture and City with technical and substantive support in connection with their symposium entitled "The United Nations and disarmament", which was held in Nagasaki. The symposium was devoted to disarmament and non-proliferation education, with interactive discussion between the panellists and participating university and high school students on disarmament and non-proliferation education, and how to impart knowledge and skills to individuals in order to empower them to make contributions, as national and world citizens, to achieving the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

8. From 1 to 3 December 2005, the Centre and the Republic of Korea jointly organized a conference on disarmament and non-proliferation issues, entitled "Strengthening the NPT and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery", at Busan, in the Republic of Korea.

9. The fourth in a series of such annual regional disarmament conferences, it was attended by approximately 40 participants from Governments, academic and research institutes, international and regional organizations, as well as NGOs, mainly from the Asia and Pacific region. The Busan conference discussed issues such as challenges to the nuclear non-proliferation regime; ways and means to strengthen and effectively implement the NPT; nuclear fuel cycle; missile non-proliferation; and implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in the Asia and Pacific region.

10. The Centre, in cooperation with the Government of Indonesia, jointly organized a workshop to promote the *United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education* in Bali, Indonesia, from 21 to 22 December 2005.

11. The workshop was attended by approximately 50 participants, including officials from various ministries of the Government of Indonesia, members of parliament, experts from academic and research institutes, international and regional organizations, the press as well as NGOs mainly from Indonesia and its neighbouring States. Presentations were made by the Centre, the secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the European Union's Assistance on Curbing Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Nuclear Weapons Education and Action Project.

12. The objective of the workshop was to familiarize the participants with the recommendations derived from the *United Nations study on disarmament and non-*

proliferation education, so as to encourage them to contribute to promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education in their respective fields. The workshop also served as an opportunity for the participants to create a network at the national level between government agencies and non-government institutions, which will support the implementation of Indonesia's commitments in the field of disarmament.

13. The Centre, in close cooperation with the Conventional Arms Branch of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, also organized a workshop on small arms and light weapons for South Asia and South-east Asia entitled "Towards the Review Conference on the Implementation of the Programme of Action", in Bangkok, from 17 to 19 May 2006. The workshop, held at the United Nations Conference Centre of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, was co-sponsored by the Governments of Canada and Japan and by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Government of Thailand hosted the workshop.

14. Approximately 80 participants, including government representatives, mostly from South and South-east Asia, and experts from research institutes, international and regional organizations and NGOs, attended the workshop.

15. The workshop aimed to provide South and South-east Asian States with an additional opportunity to prepare for the Review Conference on small arms and light weapons and consider their contribution to it by identifying specific problems with small arms and light weapons in the region, addressing challenges and exchanging information, including experiences and best practices on the implementation of the Programme of Action, and encouraging and improving regional cooperation. The workshop succeeded in adopting two reports by South and South-east Asian States as their contribution to the work of the Review Conference. Those States that have not yet submitted a national report expressed their willingness to submit such reports before or during the Review Conference, using information they provided at the workshop.

16. At the initiative of the Government of the People's Republic of China and with the generous support of several Governments, the Centre and the Government of China organized a United Nations seminar on implementing United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Asia and the Pacific in Beijing from 12 to 13 July 2006.

17. Fifty participants, including Government officials from the Asia and Pacific region as well as regional, international and non-governmental organizations, attended the seminar in their personal capacity. The seminar addressed, inter alia, the current status of implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004); prohibitions specific to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004); measures related to accounting, securing, and the physical protection of nuclear, chemical and biological items, including related materials and means of delivery; as well as export controls and their enforcement.

18. During the reporting period, the Centre continued to maintain close interaction with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific by inviting its members to participate in meetings it had organized. The Director of the Centre attended the international firearm safety seminar entitled "In the right hands", organized by the New Zealand Police in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 21 to

23 February 2006. The New Zealand Police Commissioner informed the audience that the attendance of representatives of the New Zealand Police at the Nadi workshop on small arms and light weapons, organized by the Centre in August 2004, had drawn their attention to regional and international efforts in the field of small arms and light weapons, and had motivated them to contribute to such efforts. The seminar held in Christchurch was one of such efforts. It served as an excellent illustration of the usefulness of regional disarmament efforts being promoted by the Centre and the United Nations as a whole.

19. The Centre has further explored the possibility of cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, including the Pacific Island Forum, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), academic institutes and NGOs in the Asia and Pacific region, by inviting them to participate in the dialogue facilitated by the Centre on security and disarmament issues. The Centre also held consultations with some ASEAN members and some Central Asian States to explore cooperation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation education.

20. The Centre continued to maintain effective working relationships with disarmament-related intergovernmental organizations. In that connection, IAEA, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization participated in various conferences organized by the Centre. The Centre will promote further interaction and constructive working relationships with these organizations.

21. In order to raise public awareness, the Centre has initiated the preparation of fact sheets on major regional disarmament initiatives. During the reporting period, two fact sheets entitled "The Asia-Pacific Regional Centre and Issues of Small Arms and Light Weapons" and "Promotion of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education" were prepared and distributed to participants of meetings organized by the Centre and to interested Member States at their request.

22. Pursuant to a request by the General Assembly contained in its resolutions 52/38 S, 53/77 A, 55/33 W, 57/69, and to Assembly decisions 54/417, 56/412, 58/518, 59/513 and 60/516, the Centre continued to assist the five Central Asian States in finalizing a treaty to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. Following the adoption by the five Central Asian States of the text of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty and its Protocol, in Tashkent on 8 February 2005, consultations are under way among the five Central Asian States to seek support of the nuclear-weapon States for the treaty. In their joint statement adopted in Tashkent (A/59/733-S/2005/155), the five Central Asian States expressed their desire to sign the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty as soon as possible.

23. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/73 on Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status, the Centre continued to provide assistance to Mongolia in taking the necessary measures to consolidate and strengthen Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status. The Centre organized two meetings (on 17 February and on 13 June 2006) of consultative groups of United Nations departments, programmes, funds and agencies to follow up on the two studies conducted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNDP on Mongolia's economic and ecological vulnerabilities and human security; exchange information on each other's activities to implement General Assembly resolution

59/73, and discuss the preparation of the 2006 report of the Secretary-General on this subject. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs, IAEA, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and representatives of Mongolia attended the meetings. A separate report of the Secretary-General on the subject will be submitted to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

III. Staffing and financing

24. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/39 D of 30 November 1987, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organizations might make to that end. In its resolution 60/85, the General Assembly expressed its appreciation for the continuing political support and voluntary financial contributions to the Regional Centre, which were essential for its continued operation. It also appealed to Member States, in particular those within the Asia and Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions, the only resources available to the Regional Centre, in order to strengthen its programme of activities and the implementation thereof. In this regard, during the reporting period, the Centre conducted two consultations with Member States in the region and other interested donor countries to campaign for support of the activities of the Centre and for voluntary contributions to the Centre. The Assembly also urged the Secretary-General to ensure the physical operation of the Regional Centre from Kathmandu within six months of the date of signature of the host country agreement and to enable the Centre to function effectively.

25. In that connection, the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs has continued its consultations with the host Government regarding the relocation to Kathmandu. Since the report of the Secretary-General to the sixtieth session of the General Assembly on this matter, an exchange of correspondence has taken place between the Government of Nepal and the Department for Disarmament Affairs with a view to reaching agreement on the outstanding issues related to the host country agreement and the memorandum of understanding (MOU). The Government of Nepal, in its letters of 21 November 2005 and 31 March 2006, reiterated its eagerness to conclude the host country agreement and the MOU and its desire to see the Centre relocated to Kathmandu within six months of the conclusion of the agreement by the two parties. The Department will finalize the revised documents for signature by both parties concerned, following internal procedures for clearance and approval.

26. At the same time, the Department for Disarmament Affairs continued to focus its efforts on identifying ways and means of ensuring the operational sustainability of the Centre, with particular attention being paid to solutions highlighting efficiency and cost-effectiveness, as well as to the demands and needs of the Asia and Pacific region in today's context.

27. During the reporting period, voluntary contributions in the amount of $56,000 were received. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea and Thailand for their contributions.

28. In addition, the Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation to the Governments of China, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Uzbekistan and to Kyoto Prefecture, Kyoto City, Nagasaki Prefecture and Nagasaki City for their financial and technical support for the United Nations conferences and meetings organized by the Centre during the past year. He is gratified by the continued political and financial support for the Centre from the region. In addition to being funded from the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre, activities of the Centre may also be funded from voluntary contributions to other disarmament trust funds.

29. The Centre's current staff consists of the Director, one associate expert and one General Service staff member. The Centre is seeking additional associate experts so as to implement its mandate fully.

IV. Conclusions

30. The Centre continued its role in serving as a useful forum for regional and subregional dialogue on security and global and regional disarmament issues as well as an instrument for fostering a climate of cooperation and disarmament in the region. Specifically, during the reporting period, the Centre's activities focused on contemporary concerns with regard to the non-proliferation regime, effective implementation of the NPT, promoting implementation of the Programme of Action and assisting States of the region in reporting on their implementation, as well as implementation of the recommendations of the *United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education*.

31. In order to promote further cooperation and interaction, the Centre further expanded its contacts with academic institutes, foundations and regional and subregional organizations within the Asia and Pacific region, as well as with disarmament-related international organizations. The Centre succeeded in raising public awareness about the developments and trends in the field of disarmament and security in the region. The Centre also further expanded its outreach to its constituencies through updating its website and wider distribution of its publications providing information on its various activities.

32. In order for the Centre to ensure its operational sustainability and fulfil its mandate, increased and stable financial support of Member States and interested organizations, which represents the sole financial resources of the Centre, is essential. The Secretary-General reiterates his appeal to Member States, particularly those in the Asia and Pacific region, to continue to make or increase contributions to the Centre in support of its programmes and activities.

Annex I

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for the biennium 2004-2005

	United States dollars
I. Fund balance as at 1 January 2004	206 118
II. Income	
1 January 2004-31 December 2005	
Voluntary contributions[a]	77 640
Interest income	6 349
Miscellaneous income	3 000
Subtotal	**86 989**
III. Expenditures	
1 January 2004-31 December 2005	118 022
Programme support	15 343
Prior period adjustments	—
Subtotal	**159 700**
IV. Fund balance, 31 December 2005	159 700

Note: Information is based on the Centre's statement of income and expenditure for the biennium 2004-2005 ending 31 December 2005. During the period from 1 January to 30 June 2006, an additional contribution of $3,000 was received from Thailand.

[a] 2004: Indonesia ($10,000), Pakistan ($5,500) and Thailand ($3,000);
2005: Indonesia ($10,000), Kazakhstan ($20,000), Pakistan ($6,140), Republic of Korea ($20,000) and Thailand ($3,000).

Annex II

Planned activities of the Centre

Project I

Title: Eighteenth United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, in Japan

Purpose: To assist the Asia-Pacific community to promote dialogue on nuclear-proliferation risks

Location: Yokohama, Japan

Duration: 3 days (21-23 August 2006)

Number of participants: 60 participants, including government officials, academics and NGO representatives

Cost estimates	*United States dollars*
Travel of participants	42 000
Travel of staff	24 000
Operating expenses	17 000
Programme support costs	10 800
Total	**93 800**

Project II

Title: United Nations-Republic of Korea joint conference on disarmament and non-proliferation issues

Purpose: Fifth regional disarmament conference to address security concerns in North-East Asia, including nuclear non-proliferation and missile issues

Location: Gyeongju, the Republic of Korea

Duration: 3 days (13-15 December 2006)

Number of participants: Approximately 30 participants, mainly from the Asia and Pacific region

Cost estimates	*United States dollars*
Travel of participants	33 000
Travel of staff	15 000
Operating expenses	6 000
Programme support costs	7 000
Total	**61 000**

Project III

Title: A symposium on the promotion of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education

Purpose: To familiarize participants with the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, and encourage the implementation of the recommendations contained therein

Location: To be decided

Duration: To be decided

Number of participants: To be decided

Cost estimates	*United States dollars*
Travel of staff (2)	12 000
Programme support costs	1 600
Total	**13 600**

Project IV

Title: United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, in Japan

Purpose: To assist the Asian and Pacific community to promote dialogue on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation

Location: To be decided

Duration: To be decided

Number of participants: To be decided

Cost estimates	*United States dollars*
Travel of participants	42 000
Travel of staff	24 000
Operating expenses	17 000
Programme support costs	10 800
Total	**93 800**